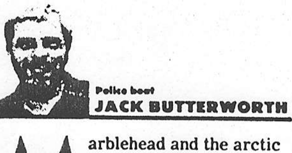
1-16-87

DAILY EVENING ITEM, Lynn, MA - Jan. 16, 1987

What are those mystery lights over in Marblehead?



Police beat
JACK BUTTERWORTH

Marblehead and the arctic are thousands of miles apart, but they have something in common this week: mysterious lights.

A Japan Airlines pilot reported mysterious lights in the sky over the Arctic Circle Sunday for the second time in two months. The government is investigating. The first time, in November, an object was seen on radar. The second time, no object was seen. Authorities suspect there is a natural explanation for the second sighting.

In Marblehead, mysterious lights were reported twice in two days. The first time they were seen in the harbor by a Salem Hospital security guard, but were gone by the time police drove out for a look. That was around 4 a.m. Monday, and nobody seems to know what the lights may have been.

The second report, early Wednesday, was on Brown Street, also in the harbor area, and once again the lights were gone when police checked.

The latest incident was on land and thought to be a passing vehicle. Of course, anyone who saw "Close Encounters of the Third Kind" could be excused for suspecting a low-flying UFO.

Marblehead Lt. David Millett, who was in the harbor area Monday morning and went looking for the lights himself, might be inclined to agree with Capt. Kenju Terauchi, the veteran pilot who said he believed there may be a natural explanation for what he saw Sunday.

Terauchi said the lights Sunday were very different from ones he saw on Nov. 17, which he described as one huge object and two smaller ones that trailed his cargo jet through arctic skies.

Since the FAA has not been contacted in the Marblehead sightings as of yet, I would like to propose one possible explanation: UFO pilots get lost in Marblehead just like any other out-of-towner.

CR: L. Whitehurst